update

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news and events

New York. Promoting peace and democracy, accelerating human development and protecting the global environment are three essentials in any strategy for the 1990s, according to UNDP Administrator William H. Draper III. In his 28 March speech to the North-South Roundtable at United Nations headquarters, Mr. Draper noted that "these three components are, of course, inter-related. There is no peace without development, no development without peace."

The gathering was the fourth and final in a series of panel discussions on strengthening the United Nations for the 1990s. The speakers included Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of the UN Population Fund, and James Grant, Executive Director of the UN Children's Fund.

Mr. Draper called for a new global order to build a more peaceful world in the coming decade. "If proposed spending cuts in the industrial countries are implemented," he said, "over US$2 trillion could be saved in military expenditures." Roughly $150 billion could be saved by the year 2000, if military spending in developing countries were frozen, he added.

Mr. Draper urged the re-allocation of existing development assistance in order to eliminate poverty. Essential human development goals must include basic education for everyone, primary health care for all, safe drinking water and elimination of absolute poverty. "We need to encourage efficiently-targeted social spending," said Mr. Draper.

The key to protecting our global environment, he said, is to recognize its crucial link with global poverty. "Most developing countries are fighting for their current economic survival and can spare little for future environmental protection unless accelerated development increases their options," said Mr. Draper. He concluded that the UN can play a crucial role in the evolution of environmentally-safe development strategies.

Warsaw. Gary Gabriel was appointed Resident Representative of the newly opened UNDP field office in Poland. This brings the number of UNDP field offices to 113. Mr. Gabriel served as Deputy Resident Representative in Bangladesh, and Deputy Chief of the Programme Support Division for the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific. He was most recently Senior Technical Assistance Officer and Head of the UNDP Programme Unit for the Africa Region of the World Bank in Washington, D.C..

UNDP has been assisting Poland since the 1960s, but has had a presence in Warsaw only since April 1990. Henrik Olesen, now Director of the UNDP Office in Geneva, was the UNDP Representative for Poland. One of the flagship UNDP projects in the country has been providing short-term expert assistance for Poland's transition toward a market economy. The experts come from such programmes as Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals, UN International Short-Term Advisory Resources and United Nations Volunteers (UNV).

UNDP has also been helping Polish firms to become effective market-oriented enterprises. Training courses and technical assistance have been provided in the areas of marketing, accounting and management. Discussions are underway with the government to determine the focus of the new country programme. Poland's Indicative Planning Figure for the next programming cycle will be $3.5 million.

New York. UNDP has approved $870,000 for a regional project to create an awareness in Asia and the Pacific of the spread of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and the social and economic impact of the Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS). This increases UNDP's contribution to AIDS control programmes in the developing world to more than $20 million. The project will be implemented in collaboration with the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organisation, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Tourism Organization, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN.

Although the prevalence of AIDS is low in Asia and the Pacific

compared to that in Africa, it is spreading rapidly in Thailand, where the number of individuals infected with HIV jumped from less than 1,000 in 1987 to almost 700,000 in 1990. Cases of HIV and AIDS have also been reported in Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Singapore, often striking people at the peak of their productive lives.

"Human survival," says Elizabeth Reid, UNDP's Policy Adviser on HIV/AIDS and Development, "is a pre-condition for human development. Both are threatened by this epidemic."

The project will help organize conferences to raise consciousness among people in and out of government of the development implications of the spread of AIDS. It will also map out a strategy to cope with the epidemic's economic and social impact.

New York. Following a request from Djibouti for assistance in economic recovery, UNDP has approved $136,500 from special funds earmarked to meet urgent needs of countries affected by the Persian Gulf War. Djibouti incurred losses exceeding $200 million largely due to reduced trading at its port. A drought is expected to further burden the country. The government will utilize the funds to recruit specialists to assess the socio-economic impact of the Gulf Crisis and draw up an investment plan.

Kingston. Delegates from 15 Caribbean nations participated in a workshop on technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) here from 18-21 March to expand the application of TCDC in their national development. It was organized by the Planning Institute of Jamaica and the UNDP field office here in association with the Caribbean Community. G. Arthur Brown, Governor of the Bank of Jamaica and former Associate Administrator of UNDP, delivered the keynote address. He observed that TCDC was operating "at too low a level" in the Caribbean and urged that it should become "an accepted norm." Denis Benn, UNDP Resident Representative in Jamaica, said other Caribbean countries could learn from Jamaica's pioneering experiences.

Three case studies -- Jamaica's experience in structural adjustment, disaster preparedness and management in the Caribbean and environmental protection in the region -- were presented at the meeting. Participants were also given a demonstration of the workings of UNDP's Information Referral Service (INRES-South), a data bank on global TCDC services.

The workshop recommended strengthening national TCDC Focal Points, developing an INRES-South data base for the region and called for an inter-country programming exercise to be held next year.

Jakarta. UNDP is co-sponsoring Indonesia's first venture capital investments conference here from 13-14 May to increase local awareness of this form of financing for small and medium-scale enterprises. It is also aimed at promoting Indonesia's business potential to an international audience.

The meeting is the result of a reconnaissance mission to Indonesia last month to refine a proposal for the creation of a Fortified Venture Capital Fund -- a model developed by UNDP's new Division of Private Sector in Development. "The concept," says Peter Eccles, a senior adviser in the division, "weds the profit motive to national development priorities by providing management consulting to capable entrepreneurs."

Mr. Eccles said that if this approach was successful in Indonesia, it will be replicated in Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe.

For further information on the conference, please contact Kathleen Ng of The Asian Venture Capital Journal Limited, Hongkong. Telephone: (852) 865-0118 or Facsimile: (852) 866-2748.

Brasilia. An international conference on Literacy and Citizenship will be held here from 3-5 May. Organized by Brazil's Ministry of Education, the meeting will enable participants to exchange information on how to cope with high illiteracy rates and forge further co-operation in the area. Conference donors include UNDP, UNESCO, Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank.

projects approved by the action committee

(all approvals subject to modification; sums quoted in US dollars)

13 March 1991

Papua New Guinea. UNDP assistance is aimed at providing technical support services to Papua New Guinea's University of Technology (Unitech). The government, recognizing the need to increase the number of well-trained lecturers and academicians, is sending 23

Unitech staff on a fellowship programme abroad. While Unitech staff undergo training, 30 UNV specialists will assume their duties at the university. In addition to teaching, the UNVs will assist in curricula development and train national staff in such areas as digital electronics and systems analysis. Government cost-sharing of $1,233,870 will pay for the UNVs' travel and living allowances over the four-year duration of the project. Executed by the UNV and implemented by Unitech. (PNG/90/006)

6 March 1991

Ethiopia. The UN Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) will be promoting community forestry and soil conservation to help stem environmental deterioration and rural poverty in Ethiopia's eastern section of Fedis Awraja. Local communities will be encouraged to participate in a number of agro-forestry and conservation activities and in the development of rural infrastructure. UNSO will also assist in the formation of grassroots organizations. The project will be carried out in conjunction with the food-for-work scheme popularized by the World Food Programme to ease food shortages in the area. Proposed UNSO contribution: $2,433,344 for consultancies, nursery equipment and training. Government-executed. (ETH/90/X01)

Niger. As part of a government drive to mitigate the social costs of economic adjustment, UNDP is helping to train government officials in data collection, analysis and management of statistical systems. The goal is to strengthen national expertise in policy formulation and economic management. Proposed UNDP contribution: $2,411,997 for experts, seminars, equipment and administrative costs. Executed by the UN Department of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and implemented by the Directorate of Statistics and Demography, Ministry of Planning. (NER/89/011)

Togo. Following a donor conference in 1988, a fund was created to support feasibility studies for Togo's public investment programmes. UNDP training under this project is expected to improve Togolese skills in aid co-ordination and economic management. Staff at the Directorate General of Planning and Development (DGPD) and planning units of related ministries will be guided in project preparation, programming and management. Assistance also includes monitoring feasibility studies for submission to potential donors. Proposed UNDP contribution: $964,351 for experts, fellowships, seminars and equipment. Government-executed and implemented by the Ministry of Planning/DGPD. (TOG/90/004)

Uganda. Supplementary funding will be provided to continue through 1991 ongoing government programmes geared toward economic reform, aid co-ordination and development planning. Proposed UNDP contribution: $863,000 for economists, UNV specialists, training, fellowships and equipment. Executed by the World Bank and implemented by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development. (UGA/87/008)

Regional project:

Africa. At least 5 million people, or more than half the estimated global total of those infected with the HIV virus, are in sub-Saharan Africa. This regional project aims to help at least six African countries most seriously affected by the AIDS epidemic. The preparatory phase will assist governments in developing community-based programmes for coping with long-term social and economic consequences of AIDS. It will also promote multi-donor funding and support workshops to increase public awareness of the impact of AIDS on development. Proposed UNDP contribution: $1,216,000 for socio-economists, UNV specialists, seminars and workshops. Executed by UNDP's Office for Project Services (OPS) and implemented by planning ministries of participating countries. (RAF/91/004)

Interregional project:

This project aims to promote technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) in national planning. Additional funding will be provided for TCDC's work programme through 1991. It includes such activities as orientation and training seminars on the concept of TCDC, regional and interregional meetings and technical exchanges. Participating governments will cover costs of local conference facilities, internal transport and logistical services. Support will also be provided for INRES-South, TCDC's information network on technical resources and needs of developing countries. UNDP's funds from Special Programme Resources of $3,326,400 will be used for consultants, programming exercises, training and workshops. Executed by UNDP/OPS. (INT/91/901)

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United Nations
Development Programme
One UN Plaza,
New York, NY 10017

World Development

update

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news and events

Windhoek. Helping African countries promote an independent and pluralistic press is the aim of a seminar that is taking place here from 29 April to 3 May. Attended by journalists from all parts of the continent, as well as representatives from the private sector, regional and international press organizations, the seminar is a collaborative effort by the United Nations Department of Public Information, UNESCO and UNDP. Along with helping to organize the event, UNDP is providing $150,000 to cover the preparation of the four major discussion papers and travel and lodging for journalists from least developed countries in Africa. The International Federation of Newspaper Publishers, the International Federation of Journalists and the International Press Institute are also involved in the seminar. Canada, Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway are providing additional financial support.

New York. Nearly 30 representatives from UNDP and the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) met here on 4-5 March to discuss how the two organizations could collaborate more closely in promoting the private sector. UNDP Administrator William H. Draper III challenged the participants to explore ways in which UNIDO and UNDP could provide direct support to the private sector rather than channel assistance through government bureaucracies.

Mr. Draper welcomed suggestions that UNIDO Country Directors work more closely with UNDP Resident Representatives in integrating private sector initiatives into national development objectives. He urged that the programmes of the recently established UNDP Division for Private Sector in Development complement UNIDO operations to avoid any duplication of services.

Tokyo. The Government of Japan will host a forum on Strategies for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the 1990s from 13-15 May. The gathering is being organized by the UN Capital Development Fund and will coincide with the 25th anniversary of the Fund.

The forum will be a follow-up to the Second UN Conference on LDCs held in Paris last September which reviewed the future of aid co-operation for LDCs. The Tokyo conference will examine the outcome of the Paris meeting, analyze policy implications and weigh how the conference recommendations can be translated into concrete action.

The need to reduce absolute poverty and invest in human development are particularly important topics as private investment flows increasingly move toward Eastern Europe, away from the LDCs. The meeting also comes at a time when the international community has been reviewing LDC options for debt relief and structural adjustment.

The gathering will bring together representatives from France, Japan, the Netherlands, the United States and multilateral institutions, including the UN Conference on Trade and Development, the World Bank and UNDP. The more than 40 participants will also include high level decision-makers from LDCs, donor countries and representatives of NGOs and academic institutions.

Nairobi. More than 15 technical staff from UNDP, the World Bank and the UN Environment Programme met here on 28-29 March to decide on the first Global Environmental Facility (GEF) projects to be carried out this year.

The three organizations will use the GEF to channel environmentally sound technology, and scientific and financial resources to middle- and lower-income countries to help them implement global environmental protection programmes.

Fifty-six projects that were reviewed related to global warming, preservation of ecological diversity and combating pollution of international waters. Twenty-six of these were considered suitable for approval at this time. Of the $273 million earmarked by GEF so far, UNDP will be responsible for implementing 13 projects valued at

$80 million. A total of $1.2 billion in grant funding is available from the GEF over a period of three years.

Bhutan, China, Colombia, Guyana, Tanzania, Viet Nam and Zaire are among the countries which will benefit from this first round of UNDP-led GEF projects. UNDP will also be responsible for carrying out five regional and two interregional projects. Aside from working with governments and NGOs to implement projects already approved, UNDP will also concentrate on developing new project proposals. These will focus on the areas of energy efficiency, reforestation and preventing pollution of international waters.

The initial pilot ventures which so far have been approved include institutional support and scientific studies for cleaning up the Danube River Basin, reducing methane emissions from rice fields in Asia and the Pacific, promoting conservation and biological diversity in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and developing plans for sustainable management of the Amazon. The GEF participants will next meet at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. on 1-2 May.

New York. A new Human Development Division has been created within the Bureau for Programme Policy and Evaluation. It will be headed by Sarah Timpson, now Director of the Division for Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Her appointment takes effect on 1 May.

The Division's main responsibility is to incorporate human development strategies, in particular poverty alleviation, into UNDP programmes. It will also provide information support and advice to field offices and regional bureaux. The unit will oversee staff in the Women in Development and NGO Divisions as well as technical experts in the areas of education, health, poverty alleviation and HIV/AIDS.

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27 March 1991.

China. This project aims to improve the quality and the industrial competitiveness of China's micro-electronics products. Modern laboratory equipment and processing technologies will be introduced at the National Center for Micro-analysis of Micro-electronic Materials and Devices in Shanghai. Proposed UNDP contribution: $1,556,000 for experts in micro-electronic analysis, fellowships, study tours, an international conference and laboratory equipment. Government-executed and implemented by the China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchange. (CPR/89/026)

Nicaragua. The recently created Nicaraguan Social Emergency Investment Fund seeks to help the poor adversely affected by the country's structural adjustment programme by providing a broad mix of income-generating ventures. UNDP will assist the Fund in managing almost 900 projects that will stimulate employment, generate self-help community initiatives, develop rural and urban roads, water and sanitation and vocational training. It will also help the Fund mobilize external resources for social programmes. Proposed UNDP contribution: $1,199,850, which includes government cost-sharing of $890,000. Funds are to pay for consultants, subcontracts, training and equipment. Executed by UNDP's Office for Project Services (OPS) and implemented by the Nicaraguan Social Emergency Investment Fund. (NIC/91/007)

Pakistan. Pakistan has the world's tenth largest population of sheep. UNDP will assist the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council in a programme to improve sheep breeding and wool production. Studies on genetics, nutrition and veterinary care will be conducted at two sheep research farms. Demonstration farms will also be organized to cover nomadic livestock raisers who own about 27 per cent of the country's 26 million sheep. Results from these studies will be applied in upgrading sheep breeding throughout the country. Proposed UNDP contribution: $1,306,700 for a sheep breeding specialist, consultants in wool biology and shearing, training and laboratory and field-testing equipment. Executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN and implemented by the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council. (PAK/88/032)

Sudan. UNDP and the UN Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) are helping to fight desertification at El Odaya in Sudan's western Kordofan region. This project will establish 11 Village Councils and Nomadic Development Committees to spur rural communities into taking charge of the development of their natural resources. The

Councils will involve farmers in range management, agroforestry, and soil and water conservation. They will also support income-generating activities in the villages by setting up revolving funds. Proposed UNDP/UNSO contribution: $1,435,600. Government cost-sharing: $200,000. Funds are to pay for consultants, training, revolving funds and study tours to Egypt, India and Syria. Government-executed and implemented by the Range and Pasture Administration. (SUD/89/026-SUD/90/X01)

20 March 1991.

China. UNDP assistance is aimed at boosting the technological development of China's machine tool industry. Support for six projects will emphasize transfer and management of modern technology in such areas as machine tool design, die casting, manufacturing and marketing. Proposed UNDP contribution: $12,181,460 for engineers, training and computer equipment. Government-executed in association with UNIDO. Implemented by the Ministry of Machine and Electronics Industry. (CPR/91/320)

Malaysia. This project seeks to upgrade the plastics manufacturing industry in Malaysia, which supports almost 40,000 workers in 700 enterprises. UNDP experts will help the Plastics Technology Centre in a pilot programme to introduce improved processing techniques and quality management to 10 plastic manufacturers. Proposed UNDP contribution: $337,500 for consultants, fellowships and study tours. Government- executed and implemented by the Standards and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia/Plastics Technology Centre. (MAL/89/012)

Western Samoa. Western Samoa's water supply systems on Savai'i, its biggest island, were destroyed by Cyclone Ofa last February. UNDP funds from Special Programme Resources (SPR) will help reconstruct a 15-kilometre network of water pipelines to restore water supplies to 22 villages in the western and northern parts of Savai'i. Proposed UNDP contribution: $300,000 for water pipes, fittings and equipment. Government-executed and implemented by the Public Works Department. (SAM/91/001)

Tuvalu. As part of a longer-term UNDP rehabilitation project, SPR funds will be allocated for rebuilding houses devastated by Cyclone Ofa in Vaitupu. Assistance includes designing cyclone-resistant houses and providing homeowners with basic construction materials. Proposed UNDP contribution: $300,000 for building materials and construction work inspection. Government-executed and implemented by the Ministry of Works and Communications/ Public Works Department. (TUV/90/004)

United Arab Emirates. A Central Forecasting Office to provide meteorological services throughout the country will be established within the Ministry of Communications with UNDP expertise. Meteorological information, including environment-related data, will significantly assist such sectors as aviation, agriculture and fisheries. Funds of $760,010 from government cost-sharing will be used for consultants in satellite meteorology and telecommunications, satellite receiving equipment and observation instruments, and fellowships. Executed by the World Meteorological Organization and implemented by the Ministry of Communications. (UAE/90/004)

Uganda. UNDP is providing training in transport planning under this project to help the Ugandan government formulate strategies for rehabilitating its transport system. Proposed UNDP contribution: $1,476,500 for transport consultants and training of staff at the Ministry of Transport. Executed by the World Bank and implemented by the Ministry of Transport. (UGA/90/018)

Zimbabwe. The Department of Natural Resources will receive technical assistance from UNDP in drawing up an action plan for protecting the environment and promoting sustainable development. The project will emphasize the participation of NGOs and local communities. The plan will be submitted to Parliament for approval and then presented to a donors conference in 1993. Proposed UNDP contribution: $854,500, with government cost-sharing of $85,900. Funds are to be used for a project co-ordinator, an environmental economist, a rural sociologist, a physical planner, research assistance and subcontracts for data collection, workshops and equipment. Executed by UNDP/OPS and implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. (ZIM/88/025)

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